



Congratulations To Our Ph.D. Graduates

Social Work PhD Program
Fall 2024 - Spring 2025 Graduates

ADELPHI
UNIVERSITY

Sabrina Brown



In addition to working with older adults in nursing homes in Florida, Ms. Brown has worked in behavioral health, domestic violence, child protective services, and substance abuse. Ms. Brown has also held positions as BSW Field Education Director at LIU in Brooklyn, NY, and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Florida, and as a visiting professor at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Sabrina Brown is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the State of Florida. She is currently a regional psychotherapist in the northeast region of Florida. As a qualified clinical supervisor, Ms. Brown also maintains private supervision practice. Ms. Brown graduated from Buffalo State College with a Bachelor of Science degree and SUNY Stony Brook School of Social Welfare with an MSW degree.

Ms. Brown has taught field education seminars, social work practice, and other courses at the BSW and MSW levels. Ms. Brown's dissertation and research interest is on the experiences of Black and female self-identified social work supervisors with the intersection of race and gender within the supervisory relationship.

Jennifer E. Reddin Cassar



Jennifer E. Reddin Cassar is an attorney and social worker committed to bringing her legal and social work education and values to all she does. Presently, Jennifer is sitting in Kings County Family Court presiding over custody, visitation, guardianship and order of protection cases as a Referee.

Prior to this post she represented children, parents and foster care agencies in all five boroughs in NYC Family Court.

Additionally Jennifer acts as an adjunct professor and teaches several courses at Adelphi's MSW program.

Her research focus is the impact that legal representation has upon the organizational culture and climate of NYC voluntary foster care agencies.

Joi Emmanuel



Joi Emmanuel, LCSW, MS Ed., is in her twentieth year as a school social worker. Joi is a clinical trauma-informed clinician with experience working with children as young as three and adults as old as ninety-two. Joi is trained in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Emotion-Focused Therapy (EFT), and Solution-Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT).

Joi enjoys educating children, adolescents, and adults and assisting others in their healing recovery process.

WARREN GRAHAM



Warren K. Graham is currently the Associate Dean of Practicum Learning at Columbia University's School of Social Work, having previously served as Assistant Dean of Practicum Education and Clinical Associate Professor at SUNY Stony Brook, and Assistant Director of Field Education for the MSW Program at the Silberman School of Social Work.

Warren has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from SUNY at Old Westbury, Masters of Social Work Degree in Social Work from Fordham University, is a NYS Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and NYS Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC). As an educator, Warren's teaching pedagogy includes courses: Anti-Racist Social Work: Understanding White Fragility and Black Rage, Human Behavior in the Social Environment, Contemporary Social Justice, Advanced Social Work Practice with Individuals in a Family Context, Oppression, Diversity, and Human Rights, Foundations of Social Work Practice, Introduction to Social Work, Diversity and Oppression in Clinical Social Work Practice utilizing a P.I.E. Perspective, and Advanced Clinical Practice with Families and Couples.

Warren is the NASW- NYS President, co-chair of the CSWE's Council on Racial, Ethnic, and Cultural Diversity, and clinician of record for Glow in Pink BCA Foundation, a faith-based breast cancer awareness organization providing information, support, and referrals to survivors.

Estee Hirsch



Estee Hirsch holds a master's degree in mental health counseling, a certificate in psychoanalysis, and a PhD from Adelphi University's Social Work program.

She is currently working full-time in her private practice located in the financial district of Manhattan. Estee specializes in working with LGBTQ+ identified individuals from high-control religious backgrounds, providing compassionate and affirming care to support their unique experiences and challenges.

In addition to her clinical work, Estee has conducted research and published journal articles and book chapters that focus on the experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals from Orthodox Judaism.

SeungJu Lee



SeungJu Lee's research and practice focus on gender-based violence, particularly intimate partner violence (IPV) among racially and ethnically minoritized populations, including Latinx, Asian, and South Asian immigrant communities.

Grounded in her direct practice and community-based work, her scholarship centers on advancing social, economic, and gender justice for IPV survivors through culturally responsive and community-based interventions. Her work aims to address the structural inequalities impacting minoritized women navigating violence and economic insecurity.

Her professional experience spans mezzo and macro-level social work, from leading local and statewide social justice and policy advocacy campaigns as a community organizer to supervising a youth program and coordinating hotline services for immigrant survivors. These experiences continue to shape and inform her research and commitment to advancing community well-being.

Jasmine Infante-Cruz



Jasmine Infante-Cruz, LMSW, is a social worker with over 20 years of experience in the field. She earned her Master of Social Work degree from Adelphi University, where she is currently pursuing her PhD. As a bilingual school social worker for the New York City Department of Education, she provides counseling, case management, and crisis intervention services to high school students with disabilities.

Jasmine's career includes significant roles such as a behavioral health social worker at the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation, where she managed court-ordered mental health services for adults. Additionally, she worked as a bilingual social worker at an outpatient school-based mental health clinic, delivering therapy and crisis intervention while conducting comprehensive assessments for adolescents.

Earlier in her career, she served as a bilingual psychiatric social worker with the New York State Office of Mental Health, focusing on assessments and therapy for children and adolescents in an acute day treatment program.

Beyond her direct practice, Jasmine has contributed to the education of MSW students by serving as a field instructor, providing guidance and academic support. As a PhD student, her research interests centered on the intersection of acculturation and mental health among Latina immigrant adolescents.

Caitlin Compton-Almo



Caitlin Compton-Almo is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and an Associate Professor of Human Services at Suffolk County Community College in Selden, NY, where she also serves as the Human Services Program Coordinator and Assistant Academic Chair of Social Sciences. Caitlin started her journey in higher education as a psychology major at Suffolk County Community College before transferring to the University of Scranton, where she earned a BS in Human Services with a concentration in Human Development in 2002.

Caitlin earned her MSW with a specialization in Children & Families from Fordham University in 2004. She has held a variety of positions as a social work practitioner, including school based social worker, residential supervisor for a program serving homeless families with disabilities, and outpatient mental health clinician. Most of her social work experience was dedicated to working with youth placed through the juvenile justice system, where she engaged in case management, staff training, program administration, clinical work with individuals and families, and facilitated psychoeducational groups. Caitlin has been teaching full time since 2016, and has taught at the Associate, Baccalaureate and Master levels having instructed each of the human services classes at Suffolk County Community College, as well as the full research sequence as an adjunct faculty member at Adelphi University's School of Social Work. Caitlin's dissertation employed an ecosystems perspective to a case study of the transfer process for community college students seeking a BSW degree. Her research interests include social work education, social justice, and juvenile justice.

Kyle McGee



Kyle McGee is a licensed master social worker with over 25 years of experience in the field as a practitioner, educator, and trainer. His work has primarily focused on individual and group mental health treatment for children, young adults and homeless adults living with serious mental illness.

He has particular interest and experience with providing effective group therapy through the use of music and drumming.

Kyle is currently employed by the Department of Public Health of New York University Langone Hospital as a clinician and trainer at ParentCorps, a family-centered, pre-k enhancement program that focuses on the social and emotional health development of preschool age children. He is also a Ph.D. candidate in Social Work at Adelphi University, and has served as an adjunct faculty at the Adelphi University School of Social Work and the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College teaching advanced practice and foundation courses to master's level students. Kyle is currently an executive board member of the International Association for Social Work with Groups and has published articles related to the practice of social work with groups.

Beatrijs Van Steertegem



Beatrijs Van Steertegem is a psychotherapist in private practice in Merrick, NY. Originally from Belgium, Beatrijs came to New York in her late teens and earned a BA from Fordham University. She went on to earn an MSW from Fordham University and a PHD from Adelphi University School of Social work.

Her research explored social workers' perceptions of the experiences they found helpful in developing their clinical competence for private practice.

Beatrijs also completed postgraduate training in Trauma Studies at the Manhattan Institute of Psychoanalysis. In her private practice Beatrijs provides evidence-based therapy for adolescents and adults who are affected by trauma, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, relationship challenges, life transitions, cultural adaptation challenges and maladaptive patterns of behavior. Throughout her career she has also worked in settings such as hospital, school, and group private practice.

Dena Gassner



Dena was recruited as a Senior Research Scientist for the AJ Drexel Autism Institute last August. She is an appointed member of the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) advising the White House on autism research priorities.

She is a member of the Autism Intervention Research Network in Physical Health (AIR-P) working with the Gender, Sexuality and Healthcare Node. She is also a member of the board of directors' Executive Committee for the Institute for Exceptional Care (IEC). She has published multiple book chapters and journal articles and her presentations include both policy and autism-related events world-wide. Her awards include the Cathy Pratt Professional of the Year Award from Autism Society of America, the Trailblazer in Diversity and Equity Award from ABC-T (Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies), and last year she was inducted into her undergraduate university's Health Care Hall of Fame at Union Commonwealth University. Her dissertation addressed the barriers of administrative burden as experienced by late-diagnosed autistic women. She achieved her PhD at age 65, after supporting her autistic son through his own educational journey.